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60,130-1899; 03MRA0388

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kramer
Serial No.: 10/715,051
Filed: 11/17/2003
Examiner: Burch, Melody M.
Art Unit: 3683
Title: Force Sensor For Vehicle Brake Application

M/S AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY BRIEF

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to the Examiner's Answer dated January 18, 2007.

Arguments With Regard to the Disclosure of Carre, et al.

In the main brief, appellant had shown that the Carre, et al. sensor 23 is not tied into an adjustment mechanism at all. The examiner, in the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13, argues that appellant's arguments are more specific than the claim language. The examiner quotes the claim as functionally reciting "a force sensor for sensing a reaction force to said braking force."

While that quoted language is part of claim 1, and the independent claim 10, in fact, both claims include other limitations which do more specifically tie the force sensor to the adjustment mechanism. As an example, claim 1 recites in addition, that the force sensor "identifying a point of force application increase indicative of initial contact of said brake pad with the item to be braked, said force sensor sending a signal to an electric control for said adjustment mechanism." Nothing within Carre, et al. discloses anything that would meet these limitations.

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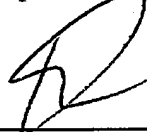
Independent claim 10 recites similar limitations, among other limitations as mentioned in the main brief.

It appears the examiner may now be arguing that the sensor 23 sends a signal to the same control that provides the adjustment mechanism, and even though sensor 23 has nothing to do with adjustment, it would still meet the claim. This is an unfair reading of the reference, and the claim.

Moreover, such a reading would not meet the limitations of claim 21 for example, which requires even further detail with regard to how the signal from the sensor is utilized.

In sum, for the reasons mentioned above, and for the reasons in the main brief, the rejection is improper and should be reversed. Such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,




Theodore W. Olds, Reg. No. 33,080
Carlson, Gaskey & Olds
400 W. Maple Road, Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: March 15, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 872-9306, on March 15, 2007.


Laura Combs